Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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PR 110840Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3568

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

SECDEF WASHDC

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

SECRETSANAA 707

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, TC, JO, US

SUBJ: YARG CONFIRMS ABU DHABI FINANCING OF US ARMS SALE AND JORDANIAN MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE

SECDEF FOR ISA

DHAHRAN FOR CHUSMTM

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR

1. I SAW PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISER MUHAMMAD NU'MAN APRIL 11 FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM TUNIS CONFERENCE OF ARAB LEAGUE FONMINS AND VISITS TO RIYADH AND ABU DHABI.

2.NU'MAN SAID THAT IN ABU DHABI HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH SHAIKH ZAYID FINANCING FOR (A) US ARMS SALE AND (B) EXPANSION OF JORDANIAN MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN YEMEN. (FORMER IS A ONE-TIME TRANSACTION COSTING APPROXIMATELY DOLS 3 MILLION. LATTER WOULD INVOLVE ABOUT DOLS 2 MILLION ANNUALLY OVER SEVERAL YEAR PERIOD.) ZAYID HAD RECONFIRMED HIS WILLING-SECRET

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NESS TO HELP YAR IN THESE RESPECTS AND HAD REFERRED

NU'MAN TO FONMIN AHMAD SUWAYDI FOR DISCUSSION OF DETAILS.

- 3. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH NU'MAN, SUWAYDI
 HAD SAID FRANKLY THAT HE PERSONALLY OPPOSED ABU DHABI
 BECOMING INVOLVED IN FINANCING MILITARY ASSISTANCE
 TO YEMEN. HE FAVORED RESTRICTING ABU DHABI'S ROLE TO
 GENEROUS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. (QTE I WOULD SUPPORT
 ANYTHING REASONABLE THAT YOU REQUEST. UNQTE) HOWEVER,
 SHAIKH ZAYID'S WORD BINDING. SUWAYDI ASKED NU'MAN
 FORWARD SOONEST THE LIST OF EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED
 FROM US, WITH PRICES AND THAT PORTION OF TRANSPORT
 COST WHICH ABU DHABI BEING ASKED TO FINANCE. ALSO,
 PARTICULARS OF JORDANIAN TRAINING PROGRAM.
- 4. IN ANSWER TO NU'MAN REQUEST FOR UPDATED LIST OF EQUIPMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN US SALE, AND FIRM COSTS, I SAID I AWARE ACTUAL LETTER OF OFFER HAD BEEN IN PREPARATION DURING MY WASHINGTON CONSULTATION IN MARCH. THIS WOULD BE BEST BASIS FOR YARG PIN DOWN ABU DHABI FINANCING. I WOULD THEREFORE ASK THAT IT BE FORWARDED BY FIRST POUCH FROM WASHINGTON.
- 5. NU'MAN HAD APPOINTMENT WITH JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MY MEETING TO SEEK DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF WHAT TRAINING JORDAN PREPARED PROVIDE AT WHAT COST.
- 6. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLIEST TRANSMITTAL OF FIRM US LETTER OF OFFER ON ARMS PACKAGE. AS NOTED DURING GENERAL SUMNER'S VISIT HERE, IDEALLY WE WOULD HOPE USG COULD PICK UP PART OF THE COST AS TESTAMENT, IN LATER CONVERSATIONS WITH SAG, OF OUR INTENTION APPROACH YEMEN'S SECURITY PROBLEM AS PARTNERS. CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USCINCEUR.

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